A March Steals on Us

On the night of December 27 JACK LUCAS, well known over many years as our roving Marks Pilot, was in bed convalescing after a dose of 'flu. He switched on to the BBC Light programme, *Marching and Waltzing*, and nearly fell out of bed when a voice announced that the next number would be the march "Toc H", and then proceeded to give a neat little description of how Toc H came to be founded and the work it did. There followed a lively, spanking tune. Jack had never heard of a Toc H march, and when he enquired later at headquarters neither had any of us.

We rang up the BBC. "Oh yes", they assured us, Jack Lucas had not been delirious. There *was* a Toc H march, composed by one Joseph Mansfield, a former member of the Welsh Guards, as a tribute to Toc H and to Tubby Clayton, and it *had* been broadcast on that evening. We have since gathered that the march is one of the Welsh Guards' stock pieces which they have played for years on such occasions as guard mounting at Buckingham Palace! It is now out of print though the Guards have their own band parts. Although Mr. Mansfield is thought to be still alive no-one seems to know for sure.

Altogether it's a rum 'un, and we are left wondering why on earth at past Festivals our Lamps and Banners have not made their entrances and exits to the playing of *our* music!

We hope one day to be able to produce a recording of the march but meanwhile would anyone who knows anything of Mr. Mansfield or of existing copies of the music please get in touch with Colin Campbell at Headquarters.

A Move for Don McKenzie

For some time DON MCKENZIE'S many friends have been concerned that the continued strain of superintending the Botha's Hill T.B. Settlement in Natal was taxing his health too severely. The cheerful news comes from him that he is now able to hand over to Mr. and Mrs. Hall from Zambia (and Scotland), while he himself takes on the job of Field T.B. Officer under the State Health Department, to work in the Magisterial District, which includes Botha's Hill. In other words his new job will be entirely in line with the Etembeni Project and will enable him to keep his finger on it, which is just what we would all desire.

As we thank God for all that has been accomplished at Botha's Hill we can feel something of the pangs that Don and his wife Betty must be experiencing now as they withdraw from the place which sixteen years ago was only a bare hillside when Don came there, and is now a flourishing community, a "Place

of Hope" that is known throughout the world. Arthur Frymann's account in this issue of a recent visit is a timely tribute to them both.

After a period in temporary accommodation, towards the end of the year Don and Betty will move into a cottage in Hillcrest, near Botha's Hill. Long may they enjoy it and the breath-taking view over the Valley of a Thousand Hills.

Tom Savage Memorial Fund

In December we reported the death of TOM SAVAGE, onetime Toc H staff padre and later to become Bishop of Zululand. This man, who left Cambridge with an Engineering degree, but then became ordained, had a character compounded of gentleness and fearlessness, of humour and limitless compassion. Small wonder then that friends who loved him have banded together to raise a memorial fund to carry on one part of his work in Zululand—the inter-racial and ecumenical training and retreat Centre at Kwa Nzimela. An appeal has gone out signed, amongst others, by Archbishop Lord Fisher, Archbishop Joost de Blank and Tubby Clayton; contributions or enquiries should be sent to the Rev. Michael Westropp, St. Mary's Vicarage, Windermere, Westmorland.

Bishop Tom Savage with an African priest. Photo: Zululand Swaziland Association.

We hear from Mr. Michael De-la-Noy (Pergamon Press Limited, 4 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1) that they may publish a biography of Tom Savage. If any members have correspondence from the Bishop or personal recollections of him Mr. De-la-Noy would be very grateful to hear from them.

Reign by Reign

The Rank Organisation has issued a series of thirty-eight colour film strips covering English history from William I to George VI. Anything from twenty-five to thirty-six frames apiece, and complete with teaching notes, each is a comprehensive study of the social, commercial, cultural and religious developments of the day—not a mere collection of kings and queens. Of interest to Toc H is the fact that the filmstrip covering the reign of King GEORGE V includes a picture of the Toc H Lamp and an appropriate commentary. The series was compiled by STEPHEN USHERWOOD, whose book *Reign by Reign*, published in 1960, also includes (in the Religion section) a description of Toc H. The film strips, for outright purchase only, are available at £1 10s. each from the Rank Film Library, 1 Aintree Road, Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex.

Graven Images

Surely one of the most disturbing pictures seen in recent weeks is that which showed one of those frequent mass parades in Peking. It wasn't so much the vast torrent of Chinese men and women on the march that was disturbing as the fact that they dragged along a huge statue, close on a hundred feet high, of CHAIRMAN MAO. When the cult of personality—so heavily condemned in orthodox communist teaching—reaches the pitch of such idolatry, one wonders what nemesis is bound to follow. Already the news of internal unrest in China reminds one of the downfall of the statues of Stalin in Budapest and of Nkrumah in Accra, and leads once again to the reflection that the mills of God may grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small.

THE EDITOR

The Thirsty Ground

ARTHUR FRYMANN

Last October Arthur Frymann, Chairman of Notts & Derby Area, made a business trip to South Africa with his wife, a Central Councillor of the Toc H Women's Association. Following a visit to Botha's Hill T.B. Settlement, Natal, the object of the Toc H Jubilee "Etembeni Project", he wrote the following despatch.

ON SUNDAY Don McKenzie drove in some thirty miles from Botha's Hill to collect us and take us back there for the day. I do not of course know Don very well, having only met him once when he visited England and gave us a talk at Bakewell. I expect any who know him so much better than I do have long obtained the impression Yvette and I gained, that he is a perfect example of a modern, very practical, saint.

We were driven, I should estimate, more than twenty miles through the Valley Settlement, out round the Valley of a Thousand Hills, to see an example of the training of the Bantu in growing their own vegetables.

On the outward journey Don rode in the back of the truck, and Yvette and I sat in front with Mr. Samuel Kuzwayo, the practical agricultural expert. His job, under Don's imaginative and driving force, is a very practical form of educational aftercare. His system of teaching is to visit the homes, often as far as thirty or forty miles from Botha's Hill Settlement, of discharged patients. He carries with him a white sheet which he hangs on the wall of the building in which he will be giving his talk.

He tells his audiences in simple terms the difference which they can see for themselves between healthy children and those who are sick, between strong men and women and those who are too ill to work. He tells them what can be achieved in hospital and from there goes on to demonstrate the curative and preventative measures which can be taken in the way of growing and eating healthy and sustaining food. He illustrates his talk with pictures of children, nurses, doctors, etc. The pictures are self-adhesive and he sticks them onto the sheet as he goes along.

They are at the moment sadly short of water, having had no rain for six months. They have enough for the Settlement itself because they have dammed a river and have two small but adequate reservoirs from which they pump water up the hill into tanks which give an ample supply both for hospital and Settlement buildings. In the vast area in which their patients live, however, there are no water supplies and no irrigation. The Bantu have their water conveyed long distances in tins, plastic receptacles and so on, on the heads of their girls and womenfolk.

Wasted Goodness

The consequences of this are that the gardens we saw were for the most part miserably dry. There were two exceptions but they were the gardens of more than usually intelligent Bantu who had really understood the advantages to be gained by growing and using correct food, and had more than grasped the way of doing it. We understood, however, that it is not merely growing the food which is the problem, but to teach the Bantu how to prepare and eat it. They are inclined, we were told, to boil vegetables for as long as two hours, throw away the liquid containing all the goodness and vitamins (if any by this process remain undestroyed) and eat the almost valueless residue.

We promised Don that we would write to our agent in Hong Kong to try to obtain from him information in English concerning the many tasteful and wholesome ways in which the Chinese prepare soya bean. It seemed to

us and to Don that soya bean could be grown in this part of the world, and that if the Bantu could be taught to grow and to use it it would greatly increase their intake of protein, which at the moment is what they lack most.

On the way back to the Settlement Don drove, Mr. Kuzwayo (whom Don called Sammy) riding in the back, together with various Bantu men and women to whom we gave a lift for varying distances, along roads which were no better than badly rutted tracks, and in places where no road existed at all. The vehicle would obviously not stand many months of this treatment, and their great need at the moment is for a vehicle independent of that used by the hospital, available all the time, strong enough to provide the transport for this agricultural exercise and training.

Transport must be available to carry fencing, posts, tools, etc., from one place to another. Transport is also required for Sammy himself to visit the various families, because at least in the early stages he has to be there continuously for several days at a time, and has to pay them visits at short intervals to ensure that watering is attended to and weeds are kept down.

Don agreed with me that the ideal vehicle would of course be a thing like a Land-rover that could carry people and fencing. It could, as Sammy himself suggested to me, enable him when he had travelled long distances, and where no sleeping accommodation is available for him, to sleep in the vehicle at night. This, to save travelling time and expense, he said he would be very pleased to do.

On the other hand Don agreed that on many of the necessary journeys there is no need to carry fencing or bulky materials, merely Sammy himself and such food, tools, etc. as he could take on a sturdy motor-cycle. I suggested to Don that he should approach Rotary to see if they would provide him with a Land-rover and motor-cycle, or raise money for the purchase of these vehicles.

Everyone in or near Durban seems to know Don McKenzie; all the Rotarians whom I met certainly do, and I found that my agent, who is an ornithologist, regards Don as one of his personal friends.

After a splendid and happy lunch with Don and Betty and a rest, in which I must confess I went soundly to sleep, Don took us on a tour of the hospital. We met many of the hundred and ninety children and ninety men at present there, and were both thrilled and distressed by what we saw.

In the church in the morning, just before the service started, the boys and girls, including one who was blind and several who were crippled, sang a hymn for us delightfully and without accompaniment. In the afternoon in the same church we were introduced to a Swedish pastor taking Sunday school for some of the boys at the same time that his wife in another building was doing it for some young girls.

In an isolation ward there were some thirty little babies kept away from the rest because an outside hospital had an epidemic of measles. In various other buildings we were surrounded by bright-eyed tiny youngsters who clutched our hands and clothes and tried to share with us their wholemeal bread sandwiches.

In everyone Don evoked an exciting response of infectious happiness. He greeted them and they responded with the words, "Oh la la" by which name Bantu children and the adults affectionately call him. He was of course born in Zululand, raised by a Zulu nurse, speaks their language and understands their ways. Greatest of all, however, is his very real and obvious love of all people.

Almost wherever I go on my trips round the world I bring rain. In Melbourne, Sydney, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Kyoto and Tokyo rain out of season invariably falls when I am there, and especially if I have any time to spare. I was equally successful at Botha's Hill, for on the Sunday afternoon as we went round, for the first time in six months and before seasonally it is due, it rained!

You can imagine the delightful scents which rose from the parched earth, which seemed to be rejoicing as much as the people who were trying to raise cauliflowers, onions, beans and cabbages in their little gardens. As Don McKenzie drove us back to Durban, the heavens opened and it drenched!

Down to Business

A progress report on action following the Vice-Patron's Letter to Branches.

AREA SUMMARIES from many parts have now been received and, as one might expect, they reflect to a great extent the variety of outlook and experience which typifies Toc H. Some remarkable new developments are taking place here and there, though not often enough to spell general vitality. Where Toc H is good it continues to succeed. Where it is not good it fails as it deserves to.

From what the reports say lines of communication at all levels could, it appears, be greatly improved and this requires that we shall all take that little bit more trouble. The following quite typical quotations from reports indicate some 'thinking points' which might well occupy some of our time.

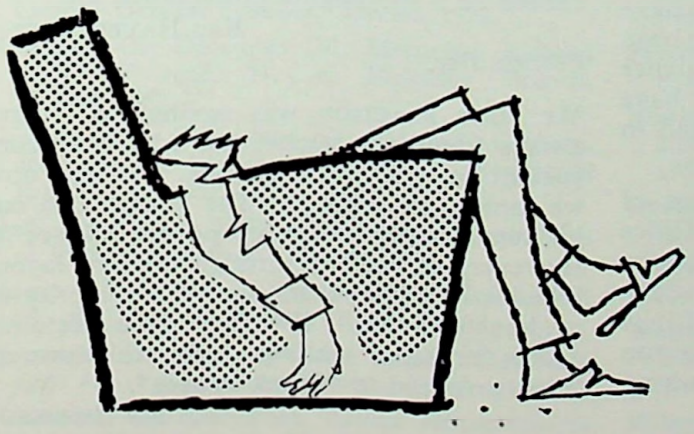
"The Branches make the point time and time again that the strength of the Movement lies within them, weak or strong as they may be."

"A clear picture emerges of a Movement which is not properly led—all members being called to do too much sustaining—of a group of middle/old-aged men being asked to skip back three generations and form an alliance with teenagers. The world of teenage groups, new expressions of Toc H and Mobile Action, is a foreign land in which they get lost . . . Members should be challenged to contact folk a few years younger than themselves, as at this level we can always talk the same language."

"In a nation torn by status symbols, class consciousness, irrelevant searching for wealth or position, wooed and co-erced into a false sense of values by an over-efficient advertising industry, Toc H has the capacity, ideals and status to act as a fortress from which these false values can be cut down to size."

From these few typical examples it can be seen that the operation is stirring up a good deal of provocative thinking. We hope all this will be very much in evidence when the Vice-Patron meets Area Chairmen at Headquarters on Saturday 24th June. ¶

C.A.C.



Ernie says:

" We've never set eyes on that overseas chap who was commended to our friendship. I'm sure we sent him our programme."

freedom of speech

The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point

For This Thy Brother

I AM PROMPTED by the above article in January to write something about "Springboard".

The venture started some three years ago when Mrs. G. Grieveson, then Mayor of Chatham and for many years a J.P., called a meeting of local organisations to see what could be done to provide a home for homeless young offenders. It was addressed by Frank Foster, Director, Borstal Division, Central After-Care Association—a Toc H member and one time member of the Central Executive.

After raising £3,000 to £4,000 in the County we met considerable difficulty in finding suitable premises. About this time we were liaising with Langley House, who have considerable experience in running residential homes for discharged offenders, although at that time they had no special home for young persons. With their help premises and staff were obtained. The home, believed to be the first residential one in the country for young discharged offenders, opened in November 1965. "Springboard" and Langley House have a joint Management Committee with a House Committee to deal with day-to-day matters and the boys' personal problems.

It is early days to judge results but we have had our successes and our failures. Some boys have not stayed and have got into further trouble, whilst on the success side boys have been in the home for several months and in continuous employment.

It is recommended that all Branches of Toc H obtain the H.M. Stationery Office publication *Residential Provision for Homeless Discharged Offenders*, details of which were given in the December JOURNAL. If it is felt that a home like "Springboard" is too ambitious there are suggestions for homes on a more modest scale.

Gravesend. FRANK DIVES

The Journal, 1967

I THINK it is an improvement and certainly easier to read. I realise that the new size is similar to the original but being a 'junior' I have only known the pocket size.

I sincerely hope the new form will result in more members reading THE JOURNAL for I fear many buy it but do not read it— this is very obvious when I visit Branches!

LES BROOKE

Westbury-on-Trym.

IT DOES my old heart good to see THE JOURNAL back in its traditional quarto size after—what—about twenty-five years? I was just beginning my ascent to the dizzy heights of the Chairmanship of the Lit. & Pub. Committee when a sub-committee consisting, if I remember rightly, of Barkis, Les Wheatley and myself, took the reluctant decision to cut the size back to take account of paper rationing which was then beginning to bear very heavily on all of us in the publishing trade. I am glad you resisted the suggestion that you should adopt the *Daily Mirror* format—even if you are tempted occasionally to adopt that newspaper's style! The employment of the new Jubilee type shows that you are determined to be up-to-date, and I congratulate all concerned on a thoroughly professional job.

REG HAVERCROFT

Potters Bar.

MY FIRST REACTION was against as I have always found the pocket size edition so convenient for that reason alone. Perhaps now we cannot so easily put THE JOURNAL in our pockets it will mean more people will see it! However, on reading through the new layout I find I like it and am sure the majority of readers will too. The new type certainly makes for easier reading. Congratulations on being prepared to "break images".

ALAN BROOKE

East Dereham.

The Journal in Braille

AS A READER of the JOURNAL in braille and privileged to be the first recipient of one of the copies, I was very pleased to see your note about the braille transcription in the January number, and I trust this will help to speed up the movement of the copies round the reading circles.

I cannot speak too highly of the excellent work done by Miss Hewitt and her friends; and for me, having been a Branch Pilot for several years and now Chapel Warden at this Mark, it is invaluable to have the JOURNAL's material readily available. By making notes of all items of particular interest to me, I am able to have the information always to hand and to forward the JOURNAL to the next reader before the deadline date.

GERALD E. NEAL

Mark XX, Putney.

. . . we will remember them

Barringer—On January 14, Claude Wells Barringer, aged 52, of Maidenhead Branch. Elected 1966.

Benson—On December 17, George Edward Benson, aged 71, of Beckenham Branch. Elected 1963.

Bowman—On December 29, Frank Bowman, aged 51, of Upton-with-Greasby Branch. Elected 1960.

Chandler—On January 17, Douglas V. Chandler, aged 68, of Portsmouth Branch. Elected 1929.

Chappell—On January 11, Norman Schofield Chappell, aged 54, of Wortley de Leeds Branch. Elected 1954.

Collins—On January 13, Walter Reginald Collins, aged 69, of R.H.H.I. Branch, Putney. Elected 1947.

Cream—On August 8, the Rev. Albert Frederick Cream, aged 72, Padre of Carlisle Branch. Elected 1949.

Dundas—On August 26, Lt.-Col. J. C. Dundas, a Central General member. Elected 1921.

Faulkner—On December 30, Montague Richard Faulkner, aged 71, of Bletchley Branch. Elected 1962.

Graham—On December 19, Edward Graham, aged 63, a founder member of Newbiggin Branch. Elected 1947.

Hall—On January 8, Percy William Hall, aged 74, of Plympton Branch. Elected 1949.

Harris—On January 7, Bramwell Cole Harris, aged 67, of Caterham Branch. Elected 1938.

Haywood—On January 18, Harold Haywood, aged 69, of Kirkheaton Branch. Elected 1965.

Henderson—In December, Arthur Henderson, of former York Branch. Elected 1940.

Hill—On January 1, Wilfred E. J. Hill, aged 45, of Street Branch. Elected 1958.

Hodges—In January, Charles Gordon Hodges, aged 81, of former Ilkley Branch. Elected 1933.

Jaycock—On December 5, Harry Jaycock, aged 71, a Foundation Member, and member of Penzance Branch.

Jones—On November 8, Aubrey Leah Jones, aged 42, of Acton & Garden Village Branch. Elected 1956.

Jones—On January 12, Victor Stanley Jones, aged 48, of Crewe group, formerly of Saughall Branch. Elected 1952.

Knight—On December 12, Reginald Stanley Knight, an East Anglia Area member, formerly of Cambridge Branch. Elected 1928.

Mitchell—On December 16, William Williamson Mitchell, aged 78, a Scottish General member. Elected 1932.

Neville—On January 19, Frederick Curtis Neville, aged 57, of Broadways (Wellingborough) Branch. Elected 1952.

New—On December 26, Wilfred Clifford New, aged 71, of St. Peter Port Branch, Guernsey. Elected 1949.

Pearce—On October 13, Charles H. Pearce, of Eynsford Branch. Elected 1931.

Rowlands—On December 23, John Victor Rowlands, aged 67, of Llangollen Branch. Elected 1962.

Ryan—On December 9, James Bernard Ryan, aged 86, of Crieff Branch. Elected 1932.

Staley—On January 10, Arthur Edward Staley, of Holt Branch. Elected 1949.

Whitell—On January 21, Harold Percy Roger Whitell, aged 77, of former Salcombe Branch. Elected 1954.

Wilson—On December 12, Henry Wilson, aged 53, of Stirling Branch. Elected 1959.

ALL WITHIN THE FAMILY

JOHN CALLF

LAST JULY we carried an article, "Senile Delinquency", in which we alluded to the grave possibility of an ever widening gulf between the older and the younger elements of Toc H.

Here is a news item. One Mobile Action group in Surrey, not long in existence, has already ceased to be. "Told you so!" is no doubt what some of our older members will immediately say. "There's no real depth or substance in these 'new expressions'; here today and gone tomorrow".

But wait! This new group no longer exists because it is in the process of becoming a recognised Branch of Toc H. "Ah, that's different", the older critics may say, mentally adding a few digits to the membership statistics—"At least they've come to their senses and are becoming *proper* Toc H." But there may be young critics too, who will say that these youngsters must have gone soft, that all the real guts must have gone out of them if they're now prepared to settle down to the cult of the weekly meeting and the 'interesting speaker'.

But we trust that both sets of critics are wrong, that here is no occasion for small-mindedness but rather for satisfaction, for hope that here lies a pattern for creative interaction between 'conventional' and 'experimental' Toc H.

Another item of news. On the South Coast, in an area where there are no less than eight groups of Toc H "Pioners" an interesting thing has happened to a Toc H Branch. It was a year or two ago that a member felt irked by its inability to attract youngsters. He therefore threw himself into the establishment of a Pioneer group which, after much trial and occasional error found its feet and became an absolute dynamo of youthful active service. Its fame travelled far afield and so did its members.

Meanwhile, back at the Branch . . . Although five Pioneers had eventually become Toc H members it still seemed set in its old ways and the ex-Pioneers found it easier to do their measure of service through the Pioneer group. It seemed as if some of the older Branch members were almost resentful, even jealous, of the younger group's undoubted success.

Things came to a head when two or three members threatened to play the age-old gambit of resigning and becoming General Members. An Extraordinary General Meeting was called at which there was much plain and honest speaking. The result? It was agreed that with the exception of Pilot (to be left in the hands of a senior) the other officers would hand over to five youngsters (average age about twenty).

One of the first tasks undertaken by the new officers was to hunt up all ex-members who had dropped out in recent years, with the result that two re-joined, plus a new recruit. At least one job has been taken over from the Pioneers and several new ones started. Of course it would be unrealistic to think that such an omelette could be made without breaking a few eggs and one or two of the older members may still feel impelled to apply for the Chiltern Hundreds.

But, here, as in Surrey, is evidence of at least one way by which the Great Divorce can be forestalled and creative interaction between the old and the new maintained, the old bringing the new to birth and, in time, the new bringing the old to rebirth.

Much will depend upon wisdom and understanding on both sides. Older members will need to make a genuine effort to appreciate the young folks' point of view and to check any tendencies towards resentment or jealousy. This is, perhaps, a more serious challenge for us who are middle-aged than for the very old. The very old can easily accept

the fact that they are no longer young and therefore, curiously enough, find it easier to get on terms with youngsters. We of middle age are, perhaps, not yet reconciled to the fact that we are no longer young, and resent being outshone by the up-and-coming generation. Often, too, I suspect we are guilty of treating the youngsters' adventures patronisingly or contemptuously. "Call this adventure?", we ask. At their age adventure for many of us meant World War II, danger and hardship on land and sea or in the air, in desert, jungle, mud, and in bombed cities here at home.

Just how irritating such an attitude must be may be gauged from considering our own feelings of resentment when old men of seventy and over tell us that, compared with their war, our war was no war at all. How bitterly we reflect that our dead looked just as dead and our wounds bled just the same. If we do not like being patronised by our seniors, then let us not proceed to patronise our juniors.

The youngsters, for their part, must also exercise wisdom and restraint and not treat anyone over thirty as a walking corpse, nor believe that dashing around at high speed is the only legitimate form of activity. *Real* fellowship, even when sitting down, is an activity; so is thinking; so is prayer. The fact is that each generation has something to give to the other and our job should be to explore the many ways of reinforcing one another, without conditions.

Way back in 1901 William James in his *Varieties of Religious Experience* reflected upon the need for the note of heroism, discipline and self-sacrifice to counter the worship of material luxury and wealth.

"War and adventure assuredly keep all who engage in them from treating themselves too tenderly. They demand such incredible efforts, depth beyond depth of exertion, both in degree and duration, that the whole scale of motivation alters . . .

"With the annulling of . . . customary inhibitions, ranges of new energy are set free, and life seems cast upon a new plane of power . . .

"What we now need to discover in the social realm is the moral equivalent of war: something heroic that will speak to men as universally as war does, and yet will be as compatible with their spiritual selves as war has proved itself to be incompatible."

The young folk of 1914 and 1939 were drawn into world wars more total, more terrible, than anything William James could have foreseen. Now, by the grace of God, a generation after the end of World War II, with our country still at peace, we are witnessing what may be the first evidence of a moral equivalent to war that makes sense to the present generation of young people. All the youth service organisations such as VSO and CSV form part of it; so do Mobile Action, Volunteers and Pioneers within Toc H.

To make William James' vision come true would be the greatest adventure of all. It is something about which the old and the young in Toc H should be equally concerned, working sometimes together and sometimes separately, but always with mutual confidence and understanding. Work we must, while the daylight lasts.

CHEERS !

The right spirit at Ormesby, Norfolk, Branch party for over 400 elderly guests from nine nearby villages. Photo: Yarmouth Mercury.

The Patient Watcher

CYRIL THORNBURY

This article by a schoolmaster member from Market Drayton, is most opportune. For the first time Dor Knap this year is running simultaneously two courses, one for bird watchers and one for artists. (See "In the Know".)

On a visit to Dor Knap in the late spring of last year I watched the birds whose song fills the air from dawn till evening. Most were busy raising a family, the parents hard at it collecting food for their hungry youngsters, never satisfied, continually crying for more.

Most visitors to Dor Knap will remember the continual 'caw, caw' of the rooks in the high beeches along the ridge, and the swallows' graceful flight as they speed across lawn, garden and field, catching flies as they go.

There are many varieties of birds, the most common perhaps being the sparrows and the starlings. Watch them as they search for food at the entrance to the scullery, on the terrace after elevenses or in the ashes of Tommy's fire behind the games room. Last year a pair of sparrows nested at the corner of the chapel; this year starlings took over the tenancy.

For beauty of colour first place must go to the finches whose reds, pinks, blues and yellows may be seen among the trees by the patient watcher. A bullfinch, with his deep rose pink breast and black head, and his duller mate, had taken up residence in a tree near the bothy. These birds eat weeds and insects, but also have a habit of pecking the buds off fruit trees.

In a neighbouring tree was a pair of goldfinches—small but lovely members of the finch family. Both the male and female have black heads and crimson faces edged with white, and beautiful golden-yellow wing patterns. The chaffinches with their slate blue heads and pink breasts were more numerous, and their song filled the air as they trilled in rival chorus from the higher branches.

The prize for the loveliest singing must surely go to the blackbird whose song, ranging from full whistles to deep warbles, is heard from sunrise to evening. Each pair, yellow billed, he black and she dark brown, has its own territory, and woe betide any intruding blackbird. I watched them turn over the fallen leaves in their search for worms, snails and grubs on the bank by the cricket pitch and saw them on the lawn too, pulling up worms after a shower.

Whilst watching song thrushes in the lower garden I saw the spotted flycatcher, a most inconspicuous summer visitor, a light grey brown except for the underparts which are nearly white. They sit quietly on wall or branch, suddenly darting after a passing insect, twisting and turning in the air, and then off to their nest in a hole in the wall.

You might catch a glimpse among the trees of the garden warbler, though his olive brown feathers, pale buff beneath, are difficult to see among the patches of broken sunlight; but at any rate you will often hear his beautiful low warbling song.

Then there are those acrobats, the great tits, interesting to watch as they search for insects along the branches, with their handsome blue, green and yellow plumage topped with a black and white head.

There are many other species to be found at Dor Knap; two families of jackdaws had set up home in the hollows of a beech, flying down to the field to collect grubs and insects for their almost fully grown family; the robin with his bright red breast, seemed out of place without the snow; the quiet mouse-like dunnock; the blue tit, known popularly as the tom tit, and the chiff chaff, endlessly repeating its name.

There must be many more—I was only there for a week-end and other things claimed my time. I don't write as an expert but I hope those who read this article and admire Dor Knap may spare a moment to observe these 'residents' and 'visitors' who contribute to the beauty of the place.

Around the World *Toc H Overseas*

ROSES, LEMONS AND HYDRANGEAS

Recently the London *Times* carried a supplement on Western Australia, reporting its enormous mineral potential and the five million acres a year going under the plough. It failed to note, presumably because the commercial possibilities were not as obvious, the Toc H exploitation of roses, lemons and hydrangeas.

Roses. Our statistics are poor as the tally clerks were scabs and went packing and bundling instead. But Operation Spring Roses made in its third year a record delivery of over one thousand individual bunches of fragrance to the lonely, sick and widowed around Perth: nor does this take into account the clothes-baskets of flowers given to hospitals on the day. Best of all, our new group at Fremantle, on its first participation, beat all other units.

It is a simple operation, which has been reported previously in the JOURNAL. We organise and help—everyone helps—that is, Toc H finds people who are willing to give roses from their gardens, people to pick them or just collect them, the trimmers of stems, the bundlers into cellophane (given free on request), and deliverers of flowers. To each bunch of roses is attached a card, headed with the Lamp: *"Your neighbours wish to share these with you, and send their best wishes. Organised by Toc H in co-operation with Churches and Organisations of the Community. Toc H exists to help others. If you are ever in need of help, please ring (telephone number and local secretary's name)."*

What Toc H does not organise is the joy that comes from this simple task: Toc H gains fellowship with others outside the Movement and a load of jobs it had not found before.

Lemons. South Perth group found that fresh fruit drink makers used lemons as a raw product, but that they wanted these in small lots so that the fruit was fresh when processed. Six men went round the backyards of their neighbours in this 1966 "good lemon year", and in a few hours collected 38 cwt. in bags and took these to the factory by car. They took $91: and then realised they had not worked out to whom they were going to give the money! Others will follow their pilot run next year.

Hydrangeas. Having tried eighty for his own use this year, and being lucky, the initiator of Spring Roses suggested we retail hydrangeas in flower as a Christmas line in 1967. The Area needs money badly to pay off a new headquarters and help with its film unit which needs two new expensive projectors. In outline the scheme is simple, but we are warned one must expect a few minor difficulties. From tip cuttings taken in January-February, expert propagators raise the plants, and after the winter dormant period these are put into large prune tins, forced and then shaded. Since the main cost in raising the plants is labour, if all goes well the profits are calculated as being tremendous—$3,200 for 10,000 plants is the conservative estimate. It sounds too good to be true to most of us, but we are willing to disown discouragement and have a bash. So we collect prune tins, empty, to receive the harvest: and put a lien on neighbours' gardens for cuttings: and hope to catch the market months hence.

Local. Despite all this horticultural activity, the better halves of Toc H report that their own home lawns and edges are neat, gardens weeded and enough wood has been chopped for the fire.

(DR.) JAMES WATSON
President, Toc H Western Australia.

Come to Iona!

THERE ARE over five hundred islands in the Hebrides— the Western Isles of Scotland— and one of the smallest has achieved the most splendid fame of all. It is Iona, the Island of I (pronounced ee), meaning 'the island'. Some say the name has its roots in Hindu mythology and a culture older than Greece. Others, less romantic, believe it arose through a mistake when copying an early manuscript. There is something about this little island which makes it beloved of artists, poets, priests and those who experience its sense of legend and of history.

In the past Iona was sufficiently venerated to become a burial place for kings. In the Reilig Odhrain there lie, among others, some forty-eight Scots kings, four Irish and seven Norwegian.

There are many places to visit—among them the Well of Age on the north slope of Dun-I, and the Well of the North Wind near the Hermit's Cell—all steeped in legend. There's the Hill of the Angels on the road to the Machair, and the Spouting Cave—incredible if the day is stormy. At beach level lie the White Strand of the Monks and Port of the Coracle, with a universe of pebbles of every shape and colour, including the legendary all-blue pebble, or fairy stone, and an all-green glass-like pebble about which a legend is also told.

From Saturday September 9 to Saturday 16 Toc H is running at Iona a 'holiday with a difference', for members, their families and friends, at a cost of £6. 10s. per adult. You are asked to come and enjoy exploring the island, meeting new people, thinking new thoughts, singing, dancing, listening to poetry, legends and stories and showing exciting and unusual slides. Any contributions—guitars and other musical instruments (I believe there are others!) will be welcome.

Of the thirty-five places available we plan to allocate about a third to those who have been to Iona before and the others to first-timers. Accommodation will be in the Abbey, mainly in four-tier bunks, with some rooms for three or four, and a few singles. If any would like a longer stay in Scotland recommended addresses are available.

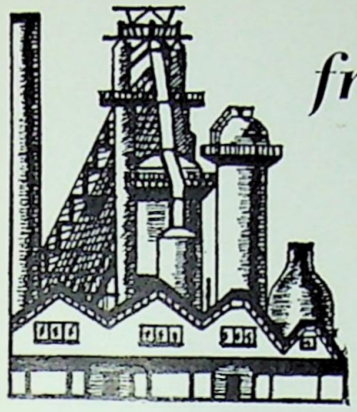
For those living in England and Wales application forms are available from J. B. MacMillan, Toc H Centre, St. Andrew's Road, Montpelier, Bristol 6; for those in Scotland and Northern Ireland from Neil McNeil, 70 Broom Walk, Craigshill, Livingston, West Lothian. When writing please say how many you will be, and if you think you will have to stay in Oban on the night of September 8 and/or September 16 please state this also. We welcome men, women and children to what should prove a full and most enjoyable week —do come. NEIL MCNEIL.

Work Projects—Summer 1967

A large and varied programme of work projects is planned for the coming summer. Projects for the 16-18 age group will include work with the mentally handicapped at Aberdeen, Maidenhead and Bracknell, and running holidays for the physically handicapped at Nutfield, Surrey, and Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. Parties will be building adventure playgrounds at Romsey, Hants (at a rehabilitation centre for gypsies) and in Hockley, Birmingham (this was one of the needs uncovered by a survey of the area by the members of last year's work party in Hockley). For twelve boys there will be what promises to be a very interesting fortnight in Hackney, London. In addition to working for the Borough Welfare Department members of the party will be given the opportunity, through discussions with officers of the Borough, of seeing in some depth how a borough operates. A party of girls is again required to help run a camp for physically handicapped Guides.

For the over-18 age group there are two three-week play schemes for children, one in Birmingham and the other in Bradford. Both will of course demand a good deal of imagination as well as energy. There will also be another work and study fortnight in Poperinge.

For full details of these and other projects please contact:—Toc H Projects Centre, 41 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.



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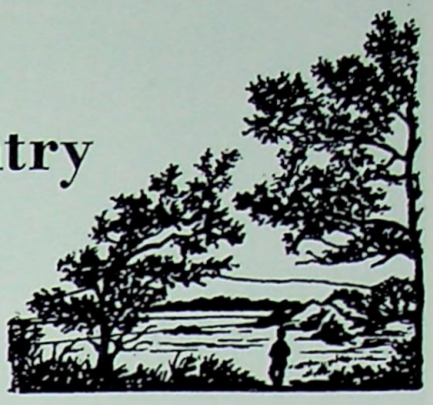
News from Areas



EAST MIDLANDS

This item might be called "Thirst after Righteousness"! Just before Christmas I was asked by a leading Company in MELTON MOWBRAY if Toc H would form a carol party to sing for a quarter-of-an-hour at a dinner in honour of a Managing Director who was retiring. With the help of our local Operatic Society and the Toc H Ladies we went into action. A bus took us to a fashionable country club where the event was to take place and where, a letter had told us, we would be given refreshments and drinks. We were asked to sing for an additional half-hour and were then escorted to a room where a wonderful dinner was laid out for us, though not a drink, hot or cold, was in sight. We were thanked and given a cheque for £15 for Toc H funds.

A few days later we received a very nice letter from the firm apologising for their oversight regarding drinks, saying how much they had enjoyed our singing, and that the only way they could make up for the lack of drink was by the enclosed cheque for £10!

WILLOUGHBY HOLMES

WESTERN LONDON

In the November 1965 issue of the JOURNAL an excellent article was published describing the work of AJEX (Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women) which aroused considerable interest in SOUTH RUISLIP Branch, particularly as it was indicated that AJEX had a Branch in Ruislip.

To learn more about these people we decided to invite a speaker to one of our meetings. In this respect we were extremely lucky as Mr. Sidney Davis, the General Secretary of AJEX, is a member of their Ruislip Branch and he gave us a wonderful talk on the history and aims of his organisation. Several weeks later I was asked to give a reciprocal talk about our own Movement. This incidentally took place in the local Synagogue which I don't suppose has happened on many occasions!

Meetings such as these are all very well but both we and AJEX felt that some closer co-operation between our Branches was desirable and that this would best be achieved by a corporate job. The one we agreed on was the provision of Christmas parcels for needy old people in the area and we spent several weeks planning this operation. Everything, I am glad to say, went off successfully, so much so in fact that we hope to continue this next Christmas on an even larger scale. In the meantime we are looking for fresh avenues in which we can together best serve the needs of the local community.

From our own experience we have found that the members of AJEX are a wonderful group of people and I personally have made many new friends. Should any Branches take the opportunity of contacting their local AJEX Branch I am sure that they will find it very worthwhile. JOHN MORGAN

Every Wednesday and Friday afternoon Uxbridge Branch use their headquarters for their Retired Men's Club. A wide range of interests and activities is provided. Photo: Middlesex Advertiser & County Gazette.

SOUTHERN

Fred Brooker left the staff of Toc H at the end of January to become Welfare Organiser to the Hampshire Council of Social Service. We congratulate him on his new appointment which appears almost tailor-made for his special talents. The Southern Area will particularly miss his ministering care as its Area Secretary these past eight years. It is our good fortune that he will remain a member of Toc H in the fullest sense of the word and a member of the Area Team.

Following in footsteps of such beloved figures as Greeno and Inky Bean must have been a daunting prospect. Fred knew himself as well as he knew Toc H and he set about his task in his own manner, making his 'contribution' (his word) in the way he knew best —person to person. In this manner he has tended his inheritance, and a goodly one too, incomparable countryside (it was just as well he enjoyed motoring—there was plenty of it), busy towns, cathedral cities, and the choicest off-shore islands—the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands.

How many times have we all said, "Fred will know the answer to that one," or "We asked Fred and he said . . .", or "We'd better hear what Fred says". It is difficult for us to imagine a District Team meeting without his comforting presence there, intervening here and there with the right answer when we are all floundering, or angrily admonishing when he feels we are really slipping from the rails. There are many of us who are active in the Movement today purely because Fred challenged us and we accepted.

Fred has the wonderful capacity for doing the common task uncommonly well. He sustained his friendships, he is totally unflappable, he held no grudges, he extended himself without reservation and he did all this with a natural self-effacement and reserve. His sense of humour is always there but often hidden and revealed as pure whimsy when the reserve is down. His intolerance of the sloppy and inefficient is matched only by his capacity for thinking very fairly, loving very widely and forgiving very readily. He accepted men as they stood in all their dignity or lack of it, 'warts and all'. His Christian witness was a total one.

It is no accident that the Pioneer groups in the Southern Area have been such successful experiments, or that the Area Weekends at Dor Knap were fully booked up. These things and many more did not just happen,

they were the result of excellent staff work, much perspiration and not a little inspiration. Fred has given himself so completely to Toc H and it is our hope that we have witnessed only the opening chapters of his involvement in the Movement he loves so dearly and has tended so well.

GEOFFREY SAVILL

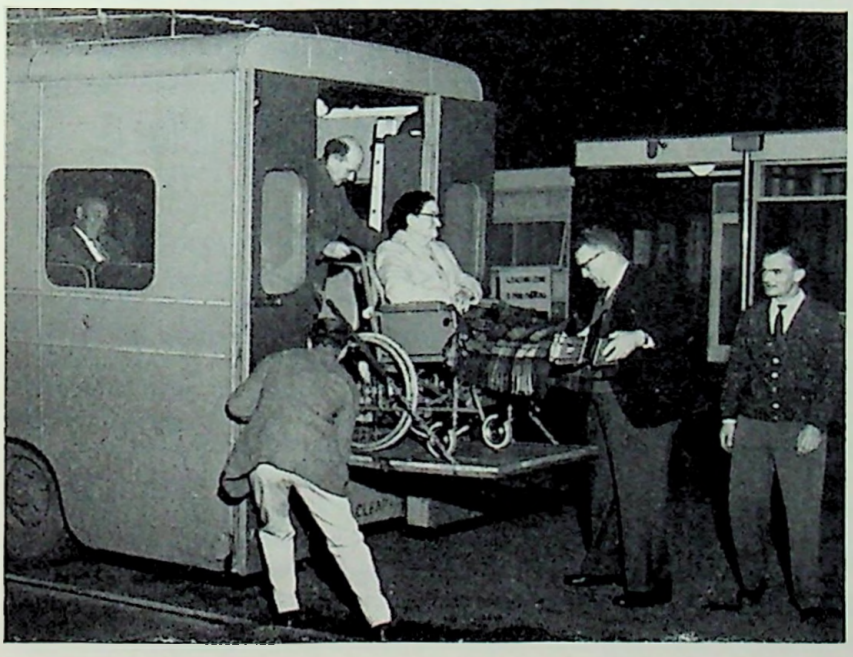
TOC H SERVICES CLUBS, B.A.O.R.

A number of 'new boys' arrived in the autumn to reinforce our hard-pressed staff team. They have all proved to be keen and hardworking and, after a period of experiment and training, each has been allotted to the Club where he seems best fitted to make his personal contribution. Now, with each Club properly staffed, time can be made for the simplest and most vital job of all—talking and making friends with individual Servicemen, which we hope will soon lead to many leisure-time activities in addition to the basic service of catering and shop-keeping. To get to know each other and discuss the real nature of our job, a one-day B.A.O.R. Staff Conference is to be held at Herford in March.

The *Toc H Windows on the World* slides, with a live commentary by the Commissioner, were shown in the PADERBORN Club in January. They evoked great interest ("We never knew Toc H was so widespread and did all those things") and an immediate invitation to show them again in the nearby Barker Barracks. By the time this is printed they should have gone the rounds of all our Clubs. By then, too, we hope to have the new "Services Membership" scheme in operation. In BERLIN five Toc H members met informally to consider this and other ways of spreading the things we stand for.

Around Christmas-time we found a ready response amongst Servicemen to the needs of folk at home. At VERDEN there was a collection, generously supported, the proceeds of which were sent to Toc H Headquarters to provide extra Christmas cheer for the housebound. Through another similar scheme in which we co-operated, Servicemen in the Verden garrison sent Christmas cards and gifts to complete strangers and received many messages of thanks. "It must be a wonderful person who could have thought of me", was one comment, which just about sums up the whole. Our Clubs at Paderborn and Berlin both sent money for the blind to the BBC and had records played for them in the special programme on December 23.

MAYNE ELSON



Mildenhall Branch, Suffolk, helped the Red Cross to form the Rendezvous Club for handicapped folk. Toc H members, two of whom act as drivers, 'load up' after an evening at the American Base, Lakenheath.

In the Know

Notes from the General Secretary

TUBBY underwent a successful cataract operation on his left eye in Moorfield's Hospital early in January. At the end of the month he went down to the South West for a period of convalescence.

CONGRATULATIONS to FRANCIS CHICHESTER, a Vice-President of Toc H, on being made K.B.E., and to T. ('BILL') BRADFORD of Belfast on being made M.B.E.

CENTRAL COUNCIL. The Annual Meeting will take place in Derbyshire on April 15 and 16. Branches should invite Councillors now to meet them soon after then.

THE ANNUAL REPORT will be published with the next issue. Branches will be well advised to make ample opportunity for its study.

COLIN STEVENSON, Midland Regional Team, is, we are glad to say, making a good recovery following a motor accident in January.

NEIL MCNEIL, Staff member for Scotland. Neil's address is: 70 Broom Walk, Almond West, Livingston, Midlothian.

DOR KNAP. "Painting for Pleasure" and "Bird Watching with a Purpose", April 21-26 (Friday-Wednesday, or week-end only for those who cannot manage the longer period). Enquiries to Cyril Cattell at Headquarters.

SOCIAL SERVICES IN GREAT BRITAIN. "The questions come fast enough but where are the answers?" Whatever form our job-mastery takes most of us feel like this at one time or another when confronted with certain types of need. Many of the answers are now readily available in a paper-back recently published by Pelican Books. It is a veritable mine of information. At six shillings "The Consumer's Guide to the British Social Services", by Phyllis Willmott, is excellent value.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE. This new Joint Department of Toc H and Toc H Women's Association has been set up at 9 The Crescent, Minories, London, E.C.3 (tel. 01-709 0472). Mrs. D. BULLIVANT has been appointed International Secretary to work with ALEC CHURCHER, Hon. International Commissioner.

Miss ELIZABETH BACON has joined the Women's Association Regional Staff with responsibilities in parts of Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Her address is: April Cottage, 16 Northbrook Road, Broadstone, Dorset.

PARTIES TO POPERINGE. Would you like to visit the Old House this year? It may be possible to join one of the parties (list in January JOURNAL) already booked. Alternatively, independent visits can usually be arranged. Enquiries to the Old House Secretary at Headquarters.

CAR BADGES. New style badges of similar design to the previous ones will shortly be available to members and Toc H Builders from Headquarters, price: 15s. each.

A Service of Thanksgiving in Toc H

Now available,
this new Order of Service,
suitable for Branch Rededications
and District and Area occasions,
is based on the form of the
Jubilee Thanksgiving Service used at
St. Paul's Cathedral and
The City Temple.

It provides for a good measure of participation by lay members of the congregation.

From Toc H Publications Dept.,
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